

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, Chairman	Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice Chair
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise	Carol Sherer, DES/DDD
Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe	+Wanda Nelson for Connie Stepnitz, City of Goodyear
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way	*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
+Paige Garrett, Quality of Life Community Services, Inc	
Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye	
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix	
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix	
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging	
Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County	
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way	
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix	
Jose Mercado for Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix	
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council	
+Joy McClain, City of Tolleson	
* Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA	
*Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF	

OTHERS PRESENT

Marianne Eichinger, DES
Dr. Friedman, ASU
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Deb Gallet, ASU
Dr. Hall, ASU

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.
*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion
Vice Chair Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
No comments were made.
3. Approval of January 10, 2007 HSCT Meeting Minutes
Vice Chair Sheffield called for a motion to approve the January 10, 2008 meeting minutes. Carol Sherer, DES, made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Phoenix Forward Presentation
Vice Chair Sheffield introduced Dr. Debra Friedman, Dean of the College of Public Programs, Arizona State University and Dr. John Hall, Professor of Public Affairs,

Arizona State University, who presented an overview of the Phoenix Forward Report. Dr. Friedman began by introducing Ms. Gallet who is new to the program and is assisting with the project. Dr. Friedman stated the project came about due to the growth of the region. They found planning was primarily focused on the physical aspects of the area. She said the report offers an overview of human services and related issues in the region. She said this was a compelling process to bring together 12 faculty members to work on this project. Dr. Friedman said the main theme voiced from all partners during this process was the need to plan across all sectors.

Dr. Hall described the role of the report as stimulating dialogue in the community about the infrastructure and context of human services. He stated many people have varying views of who should receive benefits. The finding is human services is a very diverse and complicated issue. One perspective is from the person who needs the services or the view of the person coming into the systems, and the other perspective is from a mixture of providers and planners. All are doing very good work on their own but are looking at it by sectors or silos. Aligning one definition would be beneficial for everyone. The current state of the infrastructure and the questions that could be raised address public and private investment. This investment and how Phoenix compares to other areas has changed over time. These are just suggestive questions that need to be looked into. More information needs to be gathered.

Dr. Hall said the first point to note is that human services is always trying to catch up with the growth and emerging needs. He stressed that human services needs to respond to the human side of development and growth. He said there is a need to think about alignment and collaboration within the large universe of providers and planners in the domain of the community. He asked people to consider what is the identity of the region? He said it would be good if Phoenix could be recognized as a community that gets the idea of integrating human service growth with the growth of the population. Dr. Friedman emphasized there is a coming work shortage in the social service profession, and the shortage of social workers will only make this system more difficult to maintain.

Ms. Leyvas asked for clarification when mentioning Phoenix and if the reference is to the greater Phoenix area. She also asked if the presentation is available to other groups. Dr. Friedman replied the reference is to Maricopa County and they can come to other groups to present either before the report is published or after. Ms. Gallet added that they are very interested in presenting this information to other groups. The report has a lot of information on various issues. She asked that people please contact her for more information.

Ms. Sherer inquired how much attention is paid to individuals with both physical and mental disabilities in this report. Dr. Friedman stated the report is incomplete as far as not addressing physical disabilities. She added there is a need to gain a broader look on this issue. The hope is that the report will influence people to fill in the gaps of areas that are missing. Ms. Sherer commented the school of social work has had little experience in dealing with the population of developmental disabilities. The rate is

growing to 200-250 a month for this population which shows the need is there. Dr. Hall thanked Ms. Sherer for providing this feedback.

Mr. Knaut noted the concern for public and private investment of human services and the state of the federal and local budgets in the future. He stated the challenges today will severely impact services in the future. He said the report is a good resource. Dr. Friedman said the people involved in this work have been long-time residents who know the history of the area. Many of the chapters have acute warnings on areas of concern. Dr. Hall said there are also demand factors that need to be addressed. There is always influx and the numbers need to be accompanied by dialogue. Mr. MacFarlane inquired if the report was going to be released as a draft, what level of review has been done and if faith-based groups had been engaged in the process. Ms. Friedman said the report will not be released as a draft. The intent of the report is to open of dialogue among those involved. Ms. Gallet added phase one is the report and phase two is the engagement of dialogue and phase three could be the possibility of developing recommendations for elected officials.

Ms. Leyvas commented the economic outlook all across the board is of great concern to everyone. This report could be a great opportunity to look at long-standing procedures and re-evaluate if it is still appropriate now. This report has good potential to open the dialogue of self-evaluation to be insured of an adequate infrastructure.

5. Human Services Survey

Vice Chair Sheffield introduced Ms. St. Peter, MAG, who led a discussion on the annual human services survey which is included in the Unified Planning Work Program for FY08. The survey helps to gather information on needs or services on a local level. The survey is in the work program to be completed this fiscal year and will go out to everyone in the database including, committee members and community partners. Vice Chair Sheffield said the survey was broken out by target groups last year. She asked for any suggestions or any needs for data the committee would like address through this survey. Mr. MacFarlane suggested identifying the top priorities for funding. Mr. MacFarlane and Ms. Garrett both volunteered to help in the project. Ms. St. Peter said to please let staff know of any other suggestions.

6. Committee Membership

Vice Chair Sheffield led a discussion on Committee membership and referred members to the committee attendance sheet. She stated committee members have done well recently with quorum and thanked members for their commitment. Vice Chair asked for any discussion or suggestion. None were given. She introduced Ms. St. Peter to speak on the universal issue of the committee member's role. Ms. St. Peter began by thanking everyone for their effort to attend the meetings in person, audio calling or by sending a proxy. She added that quorum is essential in order to move on any action items by the committee. Ms. Jonovich inquired on the process taken to members who have poor attendance. Ms. St. Peter said, in the past, the Chair has made phone calls to members. Ms. Leyvas asked if the committee membership belonged to the agency or individual. Ms. St. Peter clarified the membership belongs

to the agency. Ms. Sherer asked for clarification on the role of the proxy and if an agency has a role to assure there is a proxy present. Ms. St. Peter noted the proxy has the same voice and voting rights as the original member and it is up to the agency to name an appropriate proxy.

Ms. St. Peter stated that agencies should send their best possible representative to speak on agenda issues. It is the members' responsibility to vote based on their agencies' position. She emphasized the importance of knowing their agency's position before the vote is taken at the meeting. Mr. MacFarlane said it can be hard to know what exactly the Committee will be voting on at a meeting and that members can be in an awkward position as a result. Ms. St. Peter said the agendas will be very clear. Only items on the agenda can be heard. Ms. St. Peter said that sometimes the discussion can take a very different path depending on the people present. If the discussion evolves to new territory not covered by the agenda, then staff will redirect the Committee to appropriate discussion as allowed by the agenda and Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Lopez-Powell asked if a membership description is available for the committee. She noted the United Way provides a description to frame what is expected of the members in the community. Ms. St. Peter said a description is available in the orientation manual for the Committee. Ms. Lopez-Powell said another suggestion from other organizations is to make a mission statement available for the Committee to help define the role in the MAG Committee structure. Ms. St. Peter said it would be possible to have the Committee's purpose statement on the agendas. She thanked everyone for their comments and suggestion. She asked the members to make sure proxies are fully briefed for the meeting and to clarify their position before voting. Ms. Jonovich thanked staff for clarification on this issue.

Vice Chair Sheffield led a discussion on how to strengthen the Committee's work, what could be done better or what to expand on about the work being done. Ms. Leyvas thanked Ms. St. Peter and MAG staff on their work with the Committee and for providing assistance. Mr. MacFarlane commented the Committee makes recommendations and initiatives based on areas that are of immediate concern. He said another approach would be to look into polling the elected officials on what their priorities are and what they are willing to take on as an issue. He said the dialogue could be started at this table and could have more of an impact during the approval process.

7. Social Services Block Grant Indicator Study

Vice Chair Sheffield introduced Ms. St. Peter, MAG, who presented on the Social Services Block Grant Indicator Study. Ms. St. Peter began by saying the purpose of the project is to identify indicators that will measure the effectiveness of the allocation process for locally planned SSBG dollars. The committee voted on the project and it is proposed in the FY09 Unified Planning Work Program. She said discussion about the tentative project now will help to launch the project quickly if approved by Regional Council. MAG staff has looked through historical documents

along with ones created this year in regard to the SSBG allocation process. This includes an assessment of data and problem statements from various areas. She suggested that it might be beneficial to gather some feedback from the community. She asked what is helpful to members of this committee. Mr. Knaut referred to the handout of locally planned funding from DES and questioned the figures. Ms. St. Peter said this is data received directly from DES. Mr. Knaut noted the programs receive funding from different sources so it is not always possible to trace the money to specific clients or outcomes. Ms. St. Peter said there may be there other indicators that might be helpful to members.

Mr. MacFarlane stated changes have been made to the SSBG allocations in small increments. He said the Committee has been agency-focused and concerned about the impact of funding changes to the agencies involved. He said it is hard to consider changes when the agency may be relying on this funding source. He suggested the Committee look at this process from a new perspective. He said while small incremental changes have taken place, may want to look at a new procedure.

Ms. Lopez-Powell stated when the committee went through this process years before, the Division of Developmental Disabilities looked at their funding area and provided the Committee with a recommendation of where the money could do this most work. She added it was valuable information and would like to get the same information from other target groups, especially with cuts coming down the line in the future. Ms. St. Peter said while looking at allocations there is a need to look at the service level and to make sure the remaining funding for the agency will be something the agency can work with. Ms. Sherer noted when looking at the numbers to not assume the monies are for staffing. She said there is a need to look at the totals and to consider that the numbers may be based on the consumer and their need. She said internally her agency had a discussion on the accountability of where the money is going. She added each of the agencies should be able to come up with a list of outcomes of the money and what kind of impact they had with the dollars.

Ms. Leyvas agreed the performance outcomes and measures were important but asked if it was the mission of this Committee to consider this when recommending allocations. She said this is already covered in the contracts the agencies have with DES. Mr. Knuat said measurement of outcomes has been the challenge in the past. Ms. Sherer said the outcome measurement is important and there is a need to ask each of the agencies where the funding is going.

Ms. Jonovich said if the committee does ask the agency what they base their priorities on, there is a need to start this process as early as possible. She also asked for information on what the decisions are based on when recommendations for funding are kept level. She inquired if the needs assessment study was this based on this issue. Ms. St. Peter replied the assessment report was done in 2001 to be used by the community as an engagement tool.

Ms. Lopez-Powell said the United Way would be publishing a report next week about outcome assessment. Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for their comments. She added ASU also has a project in place to assess community indicators. Ms. Leyvas noted that the Committee may need to meet more often to achieve the goals discussed.

8. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Sheffield introduced Nathan Pryor, MAG Senior Policy Planner, who offered an update on human services related legislative activity at the state and federal levels. Mr. Pryor began by stating there are two big factors regarding the budget on the federal side, the elections and the economy. He added FY09 appropriation will probably not be adopted because the FY08 budget was not approved until late last year. Budget cuts have affected everyone. There is work going on to remedy the \$1 billion deficit which may be a \$1.5 billion shortage for FY09. This year a lower number of bills were submitted which may be due to the budget. Mr. Pryor said he has been working with Ms. St. Peter on identifying bills that have a human services impact. MAG does not take a position on a bill or lobby but staff does keep members informed. Mr. Pryor passed out information on three bills that have an impact on human services and said further information will be provided as it is received.

Mr. Knaut inquired on state shared revenue and if there were talks of reductions. Mr. Pryor said it is a huge concern with much lobbying to preserve the fund. Both houses have been in talks and leadership on both sides are considering the use of rainy day funding. The Governor is looking at bonding but talks are still on-going. Ms. Leyvas said it would be good to have more information on the Pay Day bill. Ms. Lopez-Powell commented the most current update is they wanted to extend operations for two years. Ms. Leyvas said there will be a hearing at 9:00 am on Monday on this issue.

Ms. Leyvas said The National Community Action Conference will be the first week of March. Delegates will make capital hill visits during this time. Maricopa County will have six or seven representative going from CAP offices along with Ms. Sheffield. She asked members to please provide any data for delegates to pass on. The delegates will also be discussing keeping SSBG intact. Ms. Lopez-Powell added there will be local opportunities for local businesses to team up with legislators during their break to discuss various issues or concerns.

9. Announcements

Ms. Sherer announced on March 13, 2008, at the Arizona Capital Mall there will be a caregivers rally. This will cover all types of caregivers from older adults to people with physical and mental disabilities. Resource information and raffle prizes will be given out. She invited everyone to attend.

Ms. Jonovich thanked MAG staff, Brande Mead and the more than 260 volunteers who helped with the street count this year. She added this was a concerted effort of many individual to help with the counting of homeless people on January 29.

Ms. Gross announced the Town of Buckeye has started their plan to end homelessness. She was pleased to report that 25 people had attended the steering committee and the report is off to a good start.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. **The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.**